

THE
CHRISTIAN HERALD.

VOL. II.] Saturday, December 23, 1816. [No. 14.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE friends of this Establishment have observed with much pleasure the liberal and cordial feeling which since its formation has been manifested in its favour by a large portion of the wise and good in our land. Of an extensive and growing interest in its prosperity an unequivocal evidence is daily afforded by the alacrity and unanimity with which Bible Institutions in almost every part of the Union are progressively declaring themselves auxiliary to the National Society, as well as by the pecuniary contributions to its funds, from societies and individuals, which are copiously flowing into its Treasury.

In our former Numbers we gave an account of the proceedings of the citizens of Boston and its vicinity in relation to the American Bible Society, which resulted in the most decided expressions of approbation of its objects and plan, and in the Massachusetts Bible Society's becoming its auxiliary.

The following public measure recently adopted in the same metropolis, sanctioned by the presence and countenance of some of the most distinguished characters of that state, is calculated to give still greater extent, respectability and tone to the public feeling in behalf of the National Institution. We have reason to expect it will be attended with the most beneficial consequences in advancing its interests in that populous and wealthy section of our country; and we hope this respectable example will be suitably improved in other sister states.

It is truly delightful to behold men of high consideration in society employing their talents and their influence to promote a cause which so eminently tends to glorify God and benefit mankind.

Massachusetts Meeting.

AT a meeting of members of the Legislature, and other gentlemen from different parts of the commonwealth, convened in the Representatives room at the State House, on Friday evening, December 6, for the purpose of adopting measures for recommending the American Bible Society to the patronage and support of the public; his Excellency the GOVERNOR in the Chair; the Constitution of the American Bible Society having been read; the subse

quent resolutions, with the preamble, after a debate of some length, were *unanimously* adopted.

PREAMBLE.

Having witnessed the unparalleled exertions which have been made within a few years past, to distribute the Holy Scriptures in many languages among the poor and destitute throughout several great and populous nations ; having seen a great multitude of Christians of all denominations, and scattered over both continents, embarking in the sublime enterprise of giving to every individual of the human race the Bible in his own language ; and having recently beheld in our own country the institution of a national Society which, from its suitableness to awaken public attention by the magnitude of its plans and operations ; from the ease and efficiency with which it can print and distribute large editions of the Scriptures ; from the facilities which it will possess for ascertaining the wants of the Bible in different and remote parts of our widely extended territory ; from the resources which it may ultimately enjoy for the dissemination of the Scriptures through the whole American continent, and in other parts of the world ; and from its tendency to unite the truly benevolent among us in the pursuit of a great common object, and to harmonize Christians of various denominations in one grand labour of love, seems destined to receive, as it well deserves, the good wishes, the prayers, and the warm support of all the friends of the Bible and of human happiness :

1. *Resolved*, That we regard these exertions with lively interest and devout thankfulness ; that we most cordially approve of the formation of the American Bible Society, and that we will gladly co-operate, as we have opportunity, in all such measures as may tend to increase and extend its usefulness.

2. *Resolved*, That we consider it as an auspicious circumstance, that the Massachusetts Bible Society, and other Bible Societies in this Commonwealth, have connected themselves with the National Society upon the terms proposed in its Constitution, and have thus become in an important sense, its Auxiliaries ; that these local Societies afford the readiest method of remitting funds to the general Society, and in their turn are the most effectual distributors of the Bible to the destitute within their respective spheres of action ; and that it appears to us highly desirable, that Bible Societies, which have not yet connected themselves with the National Institution, should place themselves in a condition to confer and receive the benefits of this relation.

3. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the formation of Bible Societies in counties or other convenient Districts of this Commonwealth, where such Institutions do not already exist, with the intention that these Societies, hereafter to be formed, shall connect themselves with the National Institution.

4. *Resolved*, That we recommend the establishment of a Branch Society, in every town, and of a Bible Association in every neigh-

bourhood, to which persons in moderate circumstances may contribute a small sum periodically so that these channels of beneficence may afford to every man a regular conveyance for his charity to the treasury of some Auxiliary Society, and thus may be exhibited the imposing spectacle of a whole community engaged, with one heart and one mind, in the same exalted work of benevolence.

5. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the Clergy, and to all others, who may have the opportunity and the means to diffuse as widely as possible, information on this important subject, that the great want of Bibles may be known, proper measures be taken to supply these wants, and the public be excited to exertions corresponding to the exigency of the case and the value of the gift intended to be bestowed.

After the adoption of these resolutions, the following votes were passed unanimously:

Voted, That Alden Bradford, Esq. Rev. Wm. E. Channing, Jonathan H. Lyman, Esq. the Secretary, and Gen. John Whiting, be a committee to adopt such measures as they may deem proper for carrying these resolutions into effect.

Voted, That the Secretary be requested to cause the proceedings of this meeting to be published in the several newspapers in this town, and that he transmit an attested copy to the Secretary of the American Bible Society.

Voted, That the thanks of the meeting be given to his Excellency the Governor, for consenting to preside on this occasion.

The meeting was then dissolved.

Attest,

CHARLES LOWELL,

Secretary of the Meeting.

The committee above named, have thought best to subjoin the plan of a Branch Society and a Bible Association, such as is recommended in the above resolutions, with a few remarks.

BRANCH SOCIETY.

Introductory Remarks.—The present age is distinguished by a truly Christian zeal to distribute the Holy Scriptures. Never before, were so many nations and so many hearts united in a work of benevolence. Christians in every quarter of the globe are now offering their prayers and contributing their substance, for the extension of the Bible to every tribe, and every family under heaven. The friends of this design will learn with pleasure, that during the last year a National Bible Society has been instituted in this country, and they are requested to avail themselves of the attention and interest which this measure has excited, for the purpose of securing a more extensive patronage to this godlike charity. It is recommended that Bible Societies be formed in counties where none at present exist, and that Branch Societies be formed in towns where their operations will be thought useful. The plan of a Branch Society is subjoined to these remarks. In such a work, who will not bear a part? Who that has drunk into the spi-

rit of Jesus Christ, will not bless God for an opportunity of communicating the Bible, that inestimable treasure, to his destitute fellow beings?

BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

It is the excellence of institutions for distributing the Scriptures, that they are more extensive bonds of Union, than ever before subsisted. Not only Christians of different denominations, but Christians of every rank and condition, have met on this common ground. The sovereigns of Europe claim the honour of patronizing Bible Societies, whilst the labouring classes, by combining their efforts, are promoting, even more than sovereigns, this cause of God and mankind. It is an important fact that the most opulent and efficient Bible Society in the world, derives a considerable part of its resources from individuals, whose annual subscriptions do not exceed a dollar. Thus Christians whose circumstances are narrow may bear an important part in spreading the Gospel through the earth. To give to such Christians this privilege, it is proposed that Bible Associations be formed in this Commonwealth, on the plan which has been found most successful in Europe. The constitution of such an association is annexed, and the friends of the Bible are desired to circulate and recommend it, so that this whole community may participate in the honour and happiness of diffusing that blessed volume which is able to make men wise unto salvation.

[Here follows the detail of a plan for a Bible Association.]

[We have the satisfaction to present to our readers the following *official statement of the BOARD of MANAGERS of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY*, which will give a general idea of the progress which that Institution is making in the good work confided to its management.]

The favourable circumstances under which the American Bible Society was formed, are well known to the public.—High expectations of its ultimate success were cherished by its friends, in consequence of these circumstances. Nor have these expectations been disappointed. On the contrary, thus far, they have been exceeded. In the short space of six months, from Georgia to Maine, the impulse given by the National Institution has been felt. Its formation has been hailed as a great and glorious era in the history of our country, and its means of accomplishing the all-important end of its formation, have been increased with more than ordinary rapidity.

To gratify a laudable curiosity, expressed in communications from different parts of the United States, the Managers feel it a duty incumbent on them to publish the following brief account of the present state of the society.

Of the Managers chosen by the Convention for the current year, the following have accepted the trust, viz.—Henry Rutgers, John

Bingham, Richard Varick, Samuel Boyd, George Suckley, Divie Bethune, William Bayard, Peter M'Cartee, John R. B. Rodgers, M. D., Dr. Peter Wilson, John Watts, M. D., Andrew Gifford, Thomas Eddy, Ebenezer Burrill, George Gosman, Thomas Carpenter, Leonard Bleecker, John Cauldwell, Thomas Stokes, George Warner, De Witt Clinton, Duncan P. Campbell, John Aspinwall, John Murray, junr. and Cornelius Heyer, of New-York; Joshua Sands and Charles Wright of Long Island; Stephen Van Rensselaer of Albany; Robert Ralston, Thomas Shields and John War-der of Philadelphia; Jeremiah Evarts of Boston; Samuel Bayard of Princeton.

The following persons, elected by the Managers, have accepted their offices:—

PRESIDENT, HON. ELIAS BOUDINOT, New-Jersey.

VICE-PRESIDENTS—Hon. John Jay, New-York; Matthew Clarkson, Esq. do.; Hon. Smith Thompson, do.; John Langdon, New-Hampshire; Caleb Strong, Massachusetts; J. Cotton Smith, Connecticut; W. Tilghman, Pennsylvania; B. Washington, Virginia; C. C. Pinckney, South Carolina; T. Worthington, Ohio; John Bolton, Esq. Georgia; Hon. Felix Grundy, Tennessee; Joseph Nourse, Esq. District of Columbia.

Rev. Dr. J. M. Mason, *Secretary for Foreign Correspondence.*

— J. B. Romeyn do. *Domestic do.*

Richard Varick, Esq. *Treasurer.*

The following Societies have become Auxiliary:—

Societies formed before the American B. S.

New-York Bible Society, May 15th; Newark do. 21st; New-York Auxiliary do. 24th; Westchester county do. 27th; Albany do. 27th; Rensselaer county do. 29th; Orange do. do. June 11th; Ostego do. do. 13th; Norfolk do. (Virginia) 18th; Delaware county do. (N. Y.) July 10th; Saratoga do. do. 10th; Bible Society of Delaware (state of Del.) 25th; Union College Bible Society, 29th; Georgia do. August 3d; Virginia do. 6th; Petersburg do. (Vir.) 16th; Burlington Female do. (N. J.) 19th; Beaufort do. (S. C.) 21st; Female Bible Society of Mill Creek (Ohio) 25th; New-Jersey Bible Society 28th; Bible Society of Greene county (N. Y.) September 10th; Fairfield County Bible Society (Conn.) 17th; New-Hampshire do. 18th; Bible Society of Massachusetts 26th; Female Bible Society of Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) October 1st; Female Bible Society of Boston and its vicinity 24th; Female Bible Society of Newark, (N. J.) November 7th; Bible Society of Maine 24th; Bible Society of District of Columbia 25th.

Societies formed since the American B. S.

New-York Female Auxiliary Bible Society, May 11th; Albany do. do. June 3d; Rockland (N. Y.) do. 4th; American Bible Society of Young Men, New Brunswick, July 4th; Juvenile Female Bible Society of Elizabethtown, 6th; Female Auxiliary do. do. 8th; Elizabethtown Aux. Bible Society, 8th; Hampshire Bible

Society (Mass.) 10th; Gloucester do. (New-Jersey) —; Fayetteville do. (N. C.) August 9th; Female Aux. Bible Society of Courtland County (N. Y.) 13th; Bible Society of Westfield (N. J.) 22d; Courtland Aux. Bible Society 27th; Amity (Orange county, N. Y.) Female Bible Society Sept. 2d.; Kentucky Bible Society 27th; Albemarle and Orange Bible Society (Vir.) Oct. 2d.; Aux. Bible Society of Redhook and Rhinebeck 21st; Fishkill Aux. Bible Society 23d; Female Bible Society of Cincinnati (Ohio) 31st; Delaware County (Penn.) Bible Society 24th; Ulster County; (N. Y.) Bible Society Nov. 30th; Female Bible Society of New-Haven (Conn.) —; Bible Society of the town of Bergen (N. J.) —.

There is reason to believe that there are more Societies who have become auxiliary, but the Managers have received no official account of them*. They regret this the more, because it prevents them from giving the fullest information on this subject to the public. They take the liberty of requesting every Society which becomes auxiliary, so soon as convenient, to give official information of the same to one of the officers of the Board, particularly noting the time when the connexion was formed.

The Long Island Bible and Common Prayer Book Society has so altered its Constitution, as to aid the Managers in translating and publishing the Scriptures without note or comment, in foreign languages.

The following Societies, without becoming auxiliary, have expressed their approbation of the National Institution by the following donations, viz:—

The Female Society of Philadelphia, 500 dolls.; Charleston do. 500 dolls.; Cumberland County (N. J.) do. 50 dolls. Female Bible Society of Carlisle (Penn.) 140 dolls.

The Presbyterian Congregation of Princeton, N. J.; the Congregational Church of Hadley, Con.; and the Second Church in Portland, Maine, have each paid in the sum requisite to make their Pastors Directors for life.

* From satisfactory documents in possession of the editor, the following Societies are also known to be auxiliary to the Amer. Bib. Soc. viz:

The B. S. of Salem and its vicinity (Mass.) October; the Auxiliary B. S. of the city and county of New-Haven (Conn.) 17th Oct.; the Female B. S. of Green's Farms, town of Fairfield (Conn.) 30th Oct.; the Vermont B. S. 21st Oct.; the Female B. S. of Schenectady (N. Y.) 12th Aug. 1816; the Madison county B. S. (N. Y.) 1st Oct.; the Female B. S. of the city of Hudson and vicinity (N. Y.) Oct.; the Female B. S. of Kingston (N. Y.); the B. S. of Nassau-Hall (N. J.); the B. S. of Cumberland county (N. J.); the Female B. S. of Carlisle (Pa.); the Meadville B. S. (Pa.); the Staunton B. S. of Virginia; the B. S. of Charleston (S. C.); the Connecticut Reserve B. S. of Ohio:—

These, with the Societies above mentioned, make the number of Auxiliaries to the American B. S. to be *sixty-seven*.

ED. CHR. HERALD.

The Managers, through the liberality of the New-York, and Auxiliary New-York Bible Societies, having been put in possession of a set of stereotype plates of the brevier 12mo. size, directed a number of copies, not exceeding 10,000, to be struck off. Of these there have been printed—

1000 copies on common, but good paper, and bound in sheep.

Price 70 cents.

2500 copies on fine American paper, to cost in sheets 68 cents.

Well bound in sheep about 88 to 90 cents.

There are now in the press

2500 copies on fine French paper, of linen rags, both whiter and better than the last mentioned. These will cost in sheets about 58 cents a copy, and well bound in sheep, from 78 to 80 cents.

The Managers recommend to every Society, sending an order for Bibles, to designate the mode of conveyance, the place to which they are to be sent, and the name of the person to whose care they must be directed.

They have also contracted for three sets of stereotype plates 8vo. and three 12mo. which it is expected will be completed in six or seven months. One of the 12mo's. they have resolved to locate in Lexington, Kentucky, under the direction of the Kentucky Bible Society.

They have accepted of the offer of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to receive as part of their donation, in lieu of money, a set of stereotype plates 12mo. of the French Bible, which when received will enable them to furnish the public with a supply of French Bibles.

As inquiries from different quarters of the country have been made on some points, to remove the difficulties which existed in the minds of some persons against the union with the American Bible Society, the Managers think it proper to state for general information on these points :

1. That every Auxiliary Society must determine for itself, what is their surplus revenue, after supplying their own wants ; but that surplus, when given, is at the sole disposal of the Managers. They will, however, thankfully receive recommendations as to the best way of disposing of the surplus revenue of any Auxiliary, reserving to themselves the right of adopting or rejecting the recommendation.

2. As to the interpretation which each Auxiliary Society has a right of giving to the extent of their wants, the Managers respectfully suggest the propriety of each Auxiliary confining itself to its natural bounds. Unless this be done, one Auxiliary may interfere with another, and thus while one district is doubly supplied, another may be destitute.

3. It is distinctly understood by the Board, that every Society becoming Auxiliary, has a right of withdrawing from the connexion when they see fit so to do.

4. In conducting the business of the Board, the most scrupulous attention is paid to the diversity of denomination which exists among Christians. The meetings are opened with reading a chapter of the Bible, selected by the acting president. No other religious exercises are performed at any time. The Managers are deeply sensible that they superintend the concerns, not of a party, but of the whole body of Christians, who are united in the National Institution for the sole purpose of distributing the Bible without note or comment.

As one of the great objects of the American Bible Society is to supply the great districts of the American continent with well executed stereotype plates for printing the Bible, the Managers request that Bible Societies in different parts of the country, would send such information as may enable them to determine in what places the unappropriated plates may be located to the best advantage.

In concluding this brief publication, the Managers request of each of the Bible Societies in the United States in existence, previous to the formation of the American Bible Society, that they will have the goodness to send on by a convenient opportunity a file of their printed reports, that thus a full history of what our country has done in this good and holy work, may in due time be prepared for publication. By order of the Board,

JOHN B. ROMEYN,

Secretary for Domestic Correspondence.

New-York, Dec. 17, 1816.

The different printers in the United States are respectfully requested to insert the above statement in their papers.

Eighth Report of the Jews' Society, (of London.)

CONCLUSION.

Having now brought to a close the account of their Transactions for another year, your Committee would invite the Members of the Society to join them in those feelings of thankfulness to God, which are called for by the present state of this Institution, when compared with what it was about eighteen months ago. At that time, the difficulties under which it laboured were so great, that, calculating according to common principles, it seemed impossible that it should surmount them. But those things which with men are impossible, are possible with God. All hearts are in his hand. It pleased Him, in his adorable Providence, to raise up for this Society all the necessary help; and by the arrangement whereby our Dissenting Brethren agreed to place the management of it entirely in the hands of the Established Church, that unity of operation which it formerly wanted was given to it. Your Committee have, during the past year, had to contend with great and serious obstacles, but they are happily in a great measure surmounted; and though it does not become any Human Institution to use the language of self-confidence, or to say, *My mountain standeth*

strong; yet when your Committee reflect upon what the Providence of God has already wrought for them, they feel the strongest grounds for an assured hope, that he will not forsake this Society in time to come, but will make it show forth his praise. *The Lord hath done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice.*

Your Committee are aware, however, of the magnitude and difficulty of that work which rests upon them. They need more than human wisdom to carry it on: but it is their consolation, that the manifold wisdom of God is manifested in giving wisdom to babes, and confounding the understanding of the prudent. They also require more than human strength to overcome the difficulties which impede their progress: but they are supported by the reflection, that the strength of Christ is made perfect in the weakness of those who put their trust in his mighty and all-sufficient grace.

Your Committee rest their confidence in the unalterable promises of God, that, in the time which he in his infinite wisdom hath determined, all Israel shall be saved:—as it is written: *There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.* They are not, therefore, disconcerted, or dismayed by delay or difficulties. The rays of the Sun of Righteousness shall penetrate and fertilize even the rocky soil of Jewish prejudice and infidelity: this desert also shall blossom, and bud as the garden of Eden: here also, instead of the thorn, shall come up the fir-tree; and instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle-tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign, that shall not be cut off.

We have formed the most enlarged expectations of the effects of the circulation of the Hebrew New-Testament Scriptures among the House of Israel. If on such a subject we may be allowed to express the extent of our hopes in figurative language, we trust that the banner of the Cross shall be once more unfurled on the mountains of Judah; not stained, as in the days of the Crusaders, with the blood of myriads slain in battle, but dyed with that blood which flowed upon Calvary for the salvation of a lost world. Elevating this sacred standard*, we hope that a new host of Jewish Missionaries shall go forth, and **THAT, BY THIS SIGN, THEY SHALL CONQUER.** Exhibiting to the eyes of the House of Israel, the simple, but deeply mysterious truth, that *God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, and not imputing unto men their trespasses*, we anticipate, that now, as in the days of the Holy Apostles of our Lord, this doctrine shall prove itself to be the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, pulling down strong-holds, and casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

*All the inhabitants of the world and dwellers upon earth shall see the lifting up, as it were, of a banner upon the mountains; and shall hear the sounding, as it were, of a trumpet. Vid. Bishop Horsley's Trans. of 12th Isa.

In order, however, to its producing these glorious effects, the preaching of the Cross of Christ must be accompanied with the Holy Ghost poured out from on high ; and it becomes us to remember that this is to be expected only in answer to fervent and importunate prayer.—Suffer, then, your Committee to exhort and beseech you to abound more and more in this duty. If the preaching of the Gospel to the Jews have not yet produced greater visible effects, it may be because Christians have not prayed without ceasing for their elder Brethren of the House of Israel.—We may have too often satisfied ourselves with giving pecuniary aid, and contributing our personal services ; not remembering that God bestows no spiritual blessings to the most unbounded liberality, and the most unwearied labours, unless they are sanctified by the spirit of prayer. Should an unusual spirit of intercession for the lost sheep of the House of Israel be poured out upon the Members of this Society, your Committee doubt not that increasing tokens of the Divine Favour to this Institution, and through it to the House of Israel, will, at no distant time, be vouchsafed in answer to such supplications.

Your Committee conclude this Report, by remarking, that perhaps even now the animated Exhortation of the Evangelical Prophet, Isaiah, addressed to the Church of God, in the last ages, has been heard by us,—and it may be, that our present sincere, though feeble endeavours, are evidence of our having begun to give obedience to it :—

Go through, go through the gates : prepare ye the way of the people : cast up, cast up the highway : gather out the stones : lift up a standard for the people. Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world ; Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold thy Salvation cometh : behold his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them, The Holy people, The redeemed of the Lord ; and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

THE TWELFTH REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

(Continued from page 199.)

For detailed information respecting India, your Committee refer to the Appendix. The following is the substance of what has been officially transmitted. A copy of the Persian translation of the New Testament, by the late Rev. H. Martin, has been received at Calcutta. The printing of this, together with that of the Arabic New Testament, (by Sabat,) are among the objects which occupy the attention and funds of the Corresponding Committee. To the excellence of the former of these, the King of Persia has borne a decided testimony : of the latter, Mr. Thomason speaks, as being “ in idiomatical Arabic, such as natives can read with pleasure, and the learned among them will not reject.”

A translation of the Gospel of St. John into the Bengalee language, has also been executed by Mr. Ellerton, of Malda, a gentleman thoroughly acquainted with that dialect ; and a hope is expressed that the remainder will soon follow.

The residue of the 5,000 copies of the Tamul New-Testament, printed by the Calcutta Bible Society, have been sent to Madras for distribution. The applications to the Rev. A. Cæmmerer, at Tranquebar, exhibiting no common anxiety to obtain them, prove the utility of this work; to which it may be added, that intelligence from the Rev. Mr. Thomson, at Madras, states, that the Testaments distributed by him have been thankfully received, and that there is still an encouraging demand for them.

Of the edition of the Malayalim version of the four Gospels, printed at Bombay, by the assistance of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the greater part, if not the whole, after some unavoidable delays, has been distributed among the members of the Syrian Church.

The revision of the translation of the remaining books of the New Testament in this dialect, had been retarded, but it is hoped that, by the aid of Ramban Joseph, a priest in Travancore who is described as the first in eminence, piety, and learning; this so anxiously desired object will be accomplished without further delay. Among those who have contributed to assist the completion of it, the Report from the Society at Calcutta mentions, with respect and gratitude, the names of Major Munro, resident at Travancore, and Colonel De Morgan.

The Malay Testament, in the Roman character, has been completed, and the copies have been sent to Amboyna, and the Cape of Good Hope, for the Malays resident in that settlement.

The Committee at Calcutta have also determined to print both the Old and New Testament in the Malay language, and Arabic character, and only wait the arrival of a competent corrector of the press from Java, to commence the work.

This edition is intended for the native inhabitants of Amboyna, Java, and the adjacent islands; and as the Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences have "expressed an entire concurrence in the high importance and truly Christian benevolence of the objects" of the Calcutta Auxiliary Society, the restoration of these territories to the Batavian authority, it is hoped, will not impede the distribution of the Malay Scriptures. It may not be out of place to mention here, that your Committee have sent fifty copies of the Arabic Bible to Java.

The publication of the Armenian Bible had also been delayed by unavoidable impediments in preparing the types, as well as in procuring a fit person to superintend the correction of the press.

These are now removed; and it is hoped that it will be completed early in the beginning of next year.

In the last Report, a discouraging prospect was held out respecting the circulation of the Portuguese New Testaments among the Roman Catholics in India; your Committee are now happy to announce, that the demand for the Portuguese Scriptures by the Catholics has very considerably increased, and even among the Priests at Goa.

In consequence of this information, they have sent 1,000 Portuguese Testaments to Calcutta and Bombay, respectively ; and to the latter place 300 Arabic Bibles, for circulation chiefly among the Mahomedans in Surat.

From Colombo your Committee have received intelligence, which represents the progress of the Auxiliary Bible Society, established in that capital for the Island of Ceylon, as highly satisfactory and encouraging.

Of the new translations in which W. Tolfrey, Esq. is engaged, (with suitable assistants,) the four Gospels have been finished in the Pali ; and in the Cingalese the entire New Testament.

A small edition of St. Matthew and St. Mark in the latter having been printed and issued by way of experiment, the Colombo Committee had the gratification to learn, from the decision of numerous and competent judges, that the language and style of the new version are not only pure and suitable to the dignity of the subject, but also plain and intelligible.

To further this work, the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society have presented a donation of 5,000 Rupees ; an act munificent in itself, and rendered still more valuable by the indication it affords of a disinterested friendship on the part of the elder Asiatic Auxiliary.

Nor have your Committee been inattentive to their duty in reference to a work of such merit and importance. In addition to a pecuniary grant of 300*l.* they have furnished materials for binding 5,000 copies of it, as soon as they shall be ready for delivery.

The spirit of the Colombo Society may finally be collected from the following fact. At the Anniversary Meeting of August, 1815, in which his Excellency the Governor presided, it was ordered, that copies of the Report should be sent to each of the Auxiliary Societies in the East ; to the Lord Bishop of Calcutta ; the Archdeacons of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay ; to each of the Clergy of the Church of England ; and to each Minister of the Gospel of every denomination resident in India.

In China, the Rev. Mr. Morrison, having nearly circulated the 2,000 copies of his Chinese translation of the New Testament, has entered upon a duodecimo edition ; a specimen of which he has transmitted to England, accompanied with a request for assistance, to enable him to enlarge the impression. He has also finished a translation of the Book of Genesis, of which a copy has been received. " I am grieved" (says Mr. Morrison) " that I cannot obtain particulars respecting the effects of the Divine Book sent into China. They are but a drop thrown into the ocean ; we must commit them to the care of Providence, hoping that they will produce a certain though a silent effect."

In this encouraging hope, your Committee unite, and have accordingly voted to Mr. Morrison the sum of 1000*l.* to enable him to print and circulate more extensively the Chinese New Testaments, as well as such Books of the Old as he may be able to complete. In that deficiency of information, of which Mr. Mor-

zison complains, your Committee are happy in being enabled to report, on the authority of the Rev. Mr. Supper, Secretary to the Java Bible Society, that the Chinese there read the New Testaments which they received from the Rev. Mr. Milne. "I often" (he writes) "find Chinese parents reading to their families in the morning out of the New Testament, and they also request instruction about some passages. I gave a portion of the Old Testament in Chinese to several, who received it with the warmest gratitude; and one merchant pressed it to his bosom, and kissed it! Oh that you could be an eye-witness of the eagerness with which the people read the word of God!"

Of the Arabic Bibles and Testaments sent to Java, a very considerable number have been sold: some of the Arabian Merchants and Sheiks are described, as sitting in company whole nights together, reading them with the greatest eagerness and attention.

One Merchant actually delayed his departure from Batavia for many days, in order to read a Bible which he had received from Mr. Supper, with tranquillity and reflection; "he promised to recommend it to his countrymen, and implored a thousand blessings on the Bible."

The sum of 220*l.* has been received by your Committee from the Treasurer of the Bible Society in the island of Mauritius, in payment for Bibles and Testaments sent thither: the circumstance is mentioned, as affording a proof of the circulation of the Scriptures in that Island.

Your Committee take this opportunity of reporting, that the Missionaries at Eimeo, in the South Seas, under the patronage of the London Missionary Society, had translated the Gospel of St. Luke into the Taheitan language; and that the above Society had sent out a printing press and types, with a Missionary who understands the business of printing.

Anxious to assist this desirable and new undertaking, your Committee have supplied the paper necessary for printing it. The information upon which this grant was made, states, that in the School at Eimeo there are nearly 300 pupils, mostly adults.

Your Committee have now to report the transactions connected with the British and Foreign Bible Society within the United Kingdom; and, under this head, they have the satisfaction to state, generally, that the object of the Institution continues to excite an increasing interest in the public mind; and that, while through the medium of Auxiliary and Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, the local wants of the Scriptures within the United Kingdom have been largely supplied, the contributions from these sources have enabled your Committee to extend the benefits, and enlarge the efficiency of the Society abroad.

In support of these observations, your Committee might refer to the popular feeling in favour of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which is obvious to all; but, for particular proof, they can confidently appeal to the specification which will now be gi-

ven of Auxiliary Societies, reported to be formed since the last Annual General Meeting, and of the contributions from them, and the old Associates of the Institution.

The number of the new Societies established during the last year is comparatively small, as the ground left unoccupied necessarily contracts its dimensions, in proportion as the circle of the Institution annually widens.

Obituary.

Mrs. SARAH SWAN, of Luton, (England) was many years a very consistent member of the Established Church, which in that town is blessed with an evangelical ministry. She was also a frequent hearer at the dissenting chapels; considering it her privilege to mingle with the followers of Jesus, without any regard to sects or parties. Her conversion to God appears to have been so imperceptible as to time, that she was herself unable to say when it was actually effected. She seems to have been gradually drawn by the cords of divine love, while sitting under the preaching of the Gospel in her parish-church, 'her heart being opened to attend unto the things which were spoken.' About two years before her death, she was seized with a violent fit of coughing, which was so distressing as to threaten her life. She often spoke of this afflicting circumstance as much blessed to her soul, by making her think more seriously about death, and become more decidedly devoted to God. The disease which proved fatal was a consumption; under the influence of which she lingered on the banks of Jordan about ten months. Amidst all the flatteries this complaint generally presents, she appeared unmoved. Her anxious friends sometimes indulged a hope that she would recover; but she generally felt a persuasion that she should not, and often expressed herself to that effect. She knew in whom she had believed; and having her anchor firmly fixed within the veil, she neither listened, nor wished to listen, to the hopes expressed by her friends. In the early part of her illness, the tender feelings of a mother's heart were tremblingly alive to the interests of her four children, already fatherless, and she felt considerable anxiety on their account; but as she advanced towards the closing scenes of life, the Lord was graciously pleased to grant her an increase of faith, verifying his own promises: 'As thy day is, so thy strength shall be;'—'Leave thy fatherless children,—I will preserve them.' Through the whole of her illness she possessed a great degree of patience and resignation. Within the few last days she got much worse; and the disease made rapid strides 'to push her to the tomb.' The last day of her life she enjoyed much of the Saviour's presence, and was enabled to appropriate him and the blessings of his salvation to herself. In the morning of that day, when in a state of great weakness, the powers of nature almost exhausted, with a heavenly smile upon her countenance, she said,

‘ This day I shall be with him in Paradise !’ In the afternoon she repeated,

‘ Jesus can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are ;
Whilst on his breast I lean my head,
And breathe my life out sweetly there !’

Soon after this, the power of articulation began to fail ; but it was evident her spirit was earnestly engaged in prayer. With her hands lifted up, she was frequently heard to say, “ Blessed Saviour ! Sweet Jesus !”—and continued such aspirations till she calmly and serenely breathed her spirit into the arms of her Lord and Saviour, in the evening of March 19, 1816. J. N.

St. Albans.



ON THE RESURRECTION.

It is evident that man’s body was made of the dust of the earth, because we see that it returns into earth again. Philosophy, therefore, may argue, that as God formed man’s body of dust at first, he can as easily restore and raise it from the same afterwards : that he will actually do this, is promised to us in the Scripture ; and on that promise, Nature is giving us a lecture every day of our lives. Many animals, after a torpid state, scarcely distinguishable from death, recover the power of life at the proper season, by the influence of the sun : some, after submersion in water during the winter. Some crawl for a time as helpless worms upon the earth, like ourselves ; then they retire into a covering, which answers the end of a coffin or a sepulchre, wherein they are invisibly transformed, and come forth, in glorious array, with wings and painted plumes, more like the inhabitants of heaven, than such worms as they were in their former earthly state. This transformation is so striking and pleasant an emblem of the present, the intermediate, and the glorified states of man, that people of the most remote antiquity, when they buried their dead, embalmed and enclosed them in an artificial covering, so figured and painted, as to resemble the caterpillar or silk-worm in the intermediate state ; and as Joseph was the first we read of that was embalmed in Egypt, where this manner prevailed, it was very probably of Hebrew original.

Jones’ Figurative Language of Scripture.

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE MR. FULLER.

The following instance of humble piety and love to young people, does honour to this great and good man :—

‘ I HAVE been thinking of a plan,’ says he, ‘ for disseminating truth among our little lace-makers :—A quantity of white wrapping paper is used in the sale of small parcels of lace-thread ; so I will draw up a number of little hymns, the most impressive I can either find or make, and get them printed on one side of the

paper: then every child that comes for a little thread, will find it wrapped up in a paper, containing a little impressive hymn addressed to its heart.'

J. B.

ANECDOTE.

Awful Death of a Swearer.

On Saturday morning, August the 10th, 1816, a man of the name of Moody, a prisoner in the Coldbath Field's prison, who had just been uttering a volley of oaths and imprecations, and *wishing he might drop down dead*, dropped dead while drinking some gruel, and thus became an awful warning to those who are accustomed to invoke the just vengeance of Jehovah to descend upon their guilty heads. These things are recorded for the timely admonition of the young and inexperienced, and loudly call upon them to beware of contracting evil habits, and of associating with bad company. The unhappy individual who was thus cut off in his sins, would, at one time, undoubtedly have been as much shocked at the thought of such a catastrophe, as themselves: for, had he resisted temptation, avoided immoral companions and dissolute practices—above all, had he become truly religious, by seeking with his whole heart after those things which belonged unto his peace, he would not have fallen a prey to vice and misery in this world, nor have been summoned into the next, under circumstances of overwhelming horror and despair.

MAXIMS.

It is a great a matter of joy to the godly, that God reigns; as it is of terror to the wicked. (Psalm xcvi. 1.)

They that fear God least, have the greatest reason to be afraid of Him.

In heaven, holiness is their everlasting temper; and happiness their everlasting portion. In hell, sin is their eternal temper; and sorrow their eternal portion.

For the Christian Herald.

TREMBLING soul, almost despairing,
Raise once more thy languid eye,
See, there is a ray of mercy
Beaming through the clouded sky.

Has the voice of Sinai's thunder,
Has its bright terrific flame,
All thy crimson guilt displaying,
Fill'd thee with dismay and shame!

Hear the voice of consolation
Gently sounding from above,
Sweeter than the harps of angels,—
'Tis the voice of peace and love.

He, who gave himself a Ransom,
When on Calvary he died,
He, who from the grave ascending,
On a glorious cloud did ride,

Now, before the throne of mercy,
Pleads his death that man may live;
There repeats his dying accents—
'Father, for my sake, forgive.'

Trembling soul, thy doubts dismissing,
Fix the eye of faith on him,
He beholds thee with compassion,
He is mighty to redeem.

God, tho' just, and sin avenging,
Yet in mercy takes delight;
Wisdom, justice, mercy, bleeding,
Into noon-day change thy night.

Silent be the voice of mourning,
Let thy joys in praises rise;
Pass'd e'er long, this vale of sorrows,
Thou shalt rest above the skies.

SPRINGFIELD.